(in lakh tonnes)

	Marketing	Year FCI	State Agencies	Total	
Wheat	RMS	2007-08	15.39	95.89	111.28
	RMS	2008-09	52.88	173.94	226.82
Rice	KMS	2007-08	123.97	160.32	284.29
	KMS	2008-09*	15.28	108.40	123.68

* as on 8.12.2008.

(c) The data on quantity of foodgrains procured by the non-Government domestic and foreign organizations is not maintained.

(d) Under the existing policy, the Central Government extends price support to foodgrains through the Government agencies (Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies). Foodgrains conforming to the prescribed specifications offered for sale at specified centres are bought by the public procurement agencies. The farmers have the option to sell their produce either to FCI/State Agencies at Minimum Support Price, or to the private parties, as is advantageous to them.

Commercial utilization of unutilized property of FCI

1302. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal for commercial utilization of the unutilized property of Food Corporation of India lying in the form of land and buildings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Malpractices in PDS

1303. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA:
SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of PDS outlets/ration dealers in the country;

(b) how many ration dealers were sentenced with imprisonment for malpractices/ misappropriation/ selling/ diverting the items in open market, during last three years and whether PDS grain worth Rs. 31,585.98 crore has been stolen;

(c) the persons arrested/prosecuted/convicted/FIRs filed during last three years, for malpractices under PDS;

(d) the detention orders made by the State Governments during last three years for hoarding, black-marketing etc. of PDS commodities under Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980;

(e) the cases detected/registered and their disposal; and

(f) whether PDS has fulfilled people's aspirations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) As per information received from States & UT Governments by the end of November 2008, there are 4,97,715 Fair Price Shops in the country. During the last three years (*i.e.* from January 2006 to November 2008), 76249 Fair Price Shops licences were suspended/cancelled/Show Cause Notices were issued/FIRs were lodged against such licencees. 13348 persons were arrested/prosecuted/convicted. During the last three years, in 425 cases detention orders were passed under the Prevention of Black-marketing and Maintenance Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Evaluation reports on TPDS received in 2005 had pointed out diversion/leakages of TPDS foodgrains in a number of States & UTs. An allegation of diversion/leakages amounting to Rs.31500 crore was mentioned in a press report in September 2007 (Times of India dated 17.09.2007). However, this figure was highly exaggerated and misleading.

Subsequent reports on concurrent evaluation of TPDS by NCAER in 12 States have shown improved performance of TPDS in many of these States.

(f) Targeted Public Distribution System has been ensuring food security for BPL and AAY in the country.

Ban on future trading

1304. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would ban future trading in 25 agricultural commodities as recommended by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution; and

(b) if so, the time-frame thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) At present there is no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Import of wheat

1305. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that around 50 lakh tonnes of wheat have been imported at a huge loss to the exchequer;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government paid to the foreign traders exorbitant price upto nearly Rs, 16,000 per tonne against the minimum support price of Rs. 8,500 per tonne which need inquiry; and